



September 30, 2014

White House Office of National Drug Control Policy
Mr. Michael Botticelli, Director
750 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Botticelli:

I write to offer my strong support for Walker County (Huntsville), Texas' application for funding through the Houston High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). Walker County law enforcement makes an important contribution to the Houston region's successful drug interdiction operations and hopes to expand its efforts with the use of HIDTA funds.

Although Walker County has many advantages as a transportation and distribution hub, its location unfortunately also makes it a target for drug trafficking. Walker County includes several major highways to include Interstate 45, which is the direct corridor between Houston and Dallas. It also hosts a major rail system and multiple state highways that are direct routes to Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Walker County has within its jurisdiction one of the busiest commercial weigh stations in the State of Texas and is positioned within a NAFTA trade corridor. In addition, Huntsville houses the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Institutional Division, which is where the majority of state prisoners are released inside the city limits of Huntsville contributing to a very busy commercial bus station with multiple arrivals and departures. This also tends to draw associates of the criminal element, many of which have ties to organized crime and narcotic distribution. These various transportation routes, to also include a municipal public airport, make Walker County an appealing destination, thoroughfare, and distribution hub for drug traffickers.

Local law enforcement proposes using HIDTA funds to combat drug trafficking. The primary component of this proposal centers on an assigned full time investigator to the Houston office which will focus on disrupting and dismantling significant drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) making a significant impact. Walker County also has an interdiction initiative that involves working the major roadways with experienced, trained deputies and canine that will assist in the region's Domestic Highway Enforcement Program. A Walker County investigator will ensure that all available intelligence is captured and shared with appropriate parties/agencies. In addition, this investigator will assist on a case by case basis with Organized

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Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) operations within Houston HIDTA. Walker County Sheriff's Office has already taken the initiative to proactively assign this investigator prior to funding. This HIDTA funding will assist that position in its efforts to reduce organized criminal activities.

I strongly support Walker County's application for funding through HIDTA and this proposal and I respectfully request that you give it all due consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Brady", with a stylized flourish underneath.

Kevin Brady
United States Representative
8th Congressional District of Texas